Difficulties Faced By The RAC Passengers

*116. SHRIMATI SARALA MAHESHWARI :
SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the railways are considering to give up the Reservation Against Cancellation system for the comfortable journey keeping in view the difficulties faced by the RAC passengers;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken so far by the Railways in this regard; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The "Reservation Against Cancellation" (RAC) System has been found to be very useful in ensuring that the Passengers who are allotted seats under this scheme get their reservations of berths according to their priority against the cancellation of berths and those falling vacant in the train. It also ensures maximum utilisation of the reserved accommodation found vacant in the train due to passengers with confirmed reservations non-turning up from originating and intermediate stations. This has more or less eliminated complaints of arbitrary allotment of accommodation by the train staff.

Killing of Rhinos in Kaziranga National Park

*117. SHRI TARACHARAN MAJUMDAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of rhinos killed in Kaziranga National Park in Assam during the years, 1991, 1992 and 1993;

(b) the number of poachers shot dead arrested and arms/ammunition recovered from the poachers during the same period; and

(c) the number of rhinos horns recovered and taken away by the poachers and what steps have been taken by Government in this regard ?

The MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH)

(a) Number of rhinos killed in Kaziranga National Park in Assam during 1991/1992 and 1993 (upto December 93) were 23, 48 and 39 respectively.

(b) and (c) The number of poachers shot dead and arrested and arms/ammunition recovered during the period is as follows :

	1991	1992	1993
Poachers Killed .	4	9	5
Poachers arrested .	25	58	67

ARMS AND AMMUNITION RECOVERED

	1991	1992	1993
Rifle . . .	2	9	12
Guns . . .	2	1	10
Silencer . . .	—	1	—
Ammunitions (rounds)	7	96	49

The number of Rhino horns recovered from poachers is as follows :

	1991	1992	1993
Recovered . .	8	9	4

The number of horns taken away by the poachers can be estimated from the above figures.

The measures taken to protect the Rhino population include :

i. Rhino is placed in Schedule I of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 getting the highest level of protection.

ii. Trading in Rhino parts, and products is also banned by law.

iii. A network of Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks has been set up for conseravation of th